

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
Release Number: 06-1757-NAT

For Immediate Release
Date: Oct. 6, 2006
Contact: Amy Louviere Dirk Fillpot
Phone: (202) 693-9423 (202) 693-9406

U.S. Department of Labor's MSHA to Hold Annual "TRAM" Conference at Mine Health & Safety Academy in West Virginia *Exhibits to Include Latest Technology in Mine Emergency Response*

ARLINGTON, Va.—The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will hold its annual Training Resources Applied to Mining (TRAM) Conference Oct. 10 to 12 at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, W.Va. TRAM provides numerous opportunities for health and safety trainers from the mining community to improve their programs with new ideas, instructional methods and materials. This year's event may be the largest ever attended, with 500 people pre-registered.

"When you consider all the conferences MSHA sponsors, and all the conferences dedicated to mining in this country, TRAM is one of the most useful and most important," said MSHA Acting Administrator David G. Dye, who is scheduled to deliver the keynote address Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m.

"Training is the foundation of a comprehensive safety and health program in any business; if workers aren't trained in safety and health practices and procedures, then they can't practice them," Dye said.

The three-day conference will feature 65 presentations by more than 100 industry and government professionals, with topics ranging from using behavioral science to increase safety performance, simulator training, distance learning for mine inspectors, and SCSR donning procedures, to understanding new mine safety regulations, and assessing the true cost of accidents to mine operators. In addition, 45 exhibitors will showcase training materials and innovative safety products used in mining.

A special exhibit featuring the latest technology relating to mine emergency response will be on display in the academy's Mine Simulation Laboratory, including the use of rescue chambers during a simulated mine emergency.

The Safety Materials Competition, now in its 11th year, will showcase the 20 best developed training materials, and MSHA will award prizes in three categories—coal mining, metal and nonmetal mining, and general safety and health information. Entries are drawn from the mining industry, government agencies and academic institutions.

###

U.S. Labor Department (DOL) releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format upon request (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office. Please specify which news release when placing your request. Call (202) 693-7765 or TTY (202) 693-7755. DOL is committed to providing America's employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance.